Before the Battle of Kuruksetra

Dhrtarastra: Sanjaya! Sanjaya!

Sanjaya: Yes, my Lord.

Dhrtarastra: Sit down and describe to me what is happening at the Battlefield of Kuruksetra. My one hundred sons, headed by my beloved Duryodhana, have assembled at that place of pilgrimage. They are about to engage in a war with the sons of Pandu.

Sanjaya: I can see that Duryodhana has just finished looking over the Pandava army. He is walking away to talk to Dronacharya.

Duryodhana: O my teacher! Just behold the great army of the Pandavas so expertly arranged by your intelligent disciple, the son of Drupada!

Drona: Dhrstadyumna!?

Duryodhana: Yes. May I refresh your memory? Do you recall the quarrel you had with King Drupada?

Drona: Yes.

Duryodhana: It is understood that he performed a great sacrifice from which he received a son that would be able to kill you. Yet you were so liberal that you didn't hesitate to teach him all that you know about the military arts. Now, he is before you as Death Personified. And, let me also remind you not to be lenient with the Pandavas. We know that you have some affection for Arjuna.

Besides Bhima and Arjuna there are many other heroic bowmen who are equally as skillful.Yuyudhana, Virata, Drupada are present. Then. there are also Yudhamanyu, Uttamuja and Abhimanyu. All these are great chariot fighters.

O best of the brahmanas, for your information, let me tell you about our captains who are especially qualified. We have your good self, Bhisma, Karna and Asvatthama. They are always

victorious in battle. And there are many other great heroes who are prepared to lay down their
lives for my sake. Our strength is immeasurable, being protected by Grandfather Bhisma;
whereas the Pandavas, carefully protected by Bhima, is limited. Now, all of you give your full
support to Bhisma.

Bhisma: (blows his conchshell very loudly. Duryodhana smiles, looking over the army. A tape is played very loudly to simulate a battlefield - crowds, horses, trumpets, elephants or powerful music. Spotlight shifts to Arjuna upon his chariot. Krsna is his chariot driver.)

Arjuna: O Infallible One, please draw my chariot between the two armies so that I may see
who is present here desirous of fighting and with whom I must contend in this great battle. Let
me see who has come here to fight, wishing to please the evil-minded Dhrtarastra. Behold,
Partha, all the Kurus who are assembled here.
(Arjuna looks out at the audience and his proud face slowly starts to change to bewilderment
and confusion.)

Arjuna: There is my Grandfather, Bhisma and my teacher, Dronacarya, Uncle Salya and all my cousins. I see also Krtavarma, who always wished me well.

My dear Krsna, seeing my friends and relatives present before me in such a fighting spirit, I feel my limbs quivering and my mouth drying up. My whole body is trembling and my hair is standing on end.

My bow Gandiva is slipping from my hands and my skin is burning. I am now unable
to stand here any longer. I am forgetting myself and my mind is reeling. I foresee only evil, O
Kesava. I do not see how any good can come from killing my own kinsmen. O Govinda, what
Is the value of kingdoms, happiness or even life itself if it means killing my own relatives. It is
not proper for us to kill them. We will be implicated by sinful reaction if we do. O Krsna, these
men do not see fault in killing their own kinsmen for they are overtaken by greed. But, why
should we, with knowledge of the sin, engage in these acts? With the destruction of the dynasty,
the family tradition is vanquished and the rest of the family becomes involved

in irreligion.
Thus, the women become corrupted and the family becomes increased with unwanted progeny.

A hellish situation pervades for those who destroy the family tradition. Alas, how
strange it is that we are preparing to commit sinful acts, being driven by the desire to enjoy
royal happiness! I would consider it better to be killed unarmed and unresisting rather than fight
with them.
(At this point, Arjuna throws down his bow and arrows and sits down in the chariot.)

Krsna: My dear Arjuna, how have these impurities come upon you?They are not befitting a man who knows the progressive values of life. They do not lead to elevation; they lead to infamy. This petty weakness of heart does not become you. Arise, O Chastiser of the Enemy!

Arjuna: O Krsna, how can I counteract with arrows men like Bhisma who are worthy of my worship? It is better to live by begging than to live at the cost of the lives of such great souls who are my teachers. Although they are opponents, they are nonetheless superiors. If they are killed, our spoils will be tainted with blood.

Now I am confused about duty and have lost all composure due to weakness. I am asking You to tell me clearly what is best for me. Now I surrender unto You. I am Your disciple, please instruct me. I can find no means to drive away this grief which is drying up my senses. Govinda, I shall not fight.

Krsna: O Arjuna, while speaking as though you are learned, you are lamenting for that which is
not worthy of grief. The soul dwelling within the body is eternal.

Arjuna: Eternal?

Krsna: Yes, the soul can never be slain. Never was there a time when I did not exist, nor you, nor
all these kings, nor in the future will any of us cease to be. Only the body is subject to destruction.
Try to understand, O son of Kunti, that every living being is an individual soul who dwells within
the body but is different from it.

Arjuna: I don't understand. How is man different from his body?

Krsna: The body changes at every moment, from boyhood to youth and then to old age, but the soul within the body does not change.

Arjuna: But, what happens to the soul at death?

Krsna: At death, the soul passes from one body to another just as a person takes off an old garment and puts on a new one. Therefore, the wise man does not lament for the living nor the dead.

Arjuna: Krsna, You say the soul cannot be slain?

Krsna: Yes, because he is spiritual. The soul cannot be cut by weapons, burned by fire, moistened by water nor withered by the wind. He is indestructible. Do you understand?

Arjuna: Yes, I do. O Krsna, from whom did You receive this knowledge?

Krsna: It is I who instructed this knowledge long ago to the sun god, Vivasvan, who in turn instructed Manu. And now I teach it to you, Arjuna, because you are my devotee as well as my friend.

Arjuna: But, my Lord, the sun god is senior by birth to You, Is he not?

Krsna: Yes.

Arjuna: How is it then that long ago You instructed him?

Krsna: Both you and I have passed through many lives. I can remember all of them, but you cannot.

Arjuna: Why?

Krsna: Arjuna, the time of death an ordinary living being forgets everything of his past life due to his change of body. But Mine is a transcendental body which never changes and never dies.

Arjuna: Then why do You come to this world of death?

Krsna: I come to deliver the pious and destroy the miscreants as well as to re-establish the

principles of religion. Anyone who understands the nature of My appearance and activities,
Arjuna, does not take birth again in this material world, but attains My eternal abode.

Arjuna: Tell me more of this, please.

Krsna: Beyond this universe is another world which has no need of sunlight, moonlight or
electricity. It is free from the miseries of disease, old age and death. When all this world is
annihilated, My abode remains as it is.

Arjuna: Govinda, I have always thought of You only as my friend. But tell me, Who are
You in reality? How can I meditate on You?

Krsna: I am the origin of all the worlds. The entire creation Everything emanates from Me. The wise who know this fully engage in my devotional service and worship Me with all their hearts. To them I give the understanding by which they can come to Me. Out of compassion for them, I, dwelling within their hearts, destroy the darkness born of ignorance with the shining lamp of knowledge.

I am the life of all that lives. I am the taste of water, the light of the sun and moon.
Everything rests upon Me, like pearls are strung on a thread. I am all devouring death and the
generator of all things to come. But, what need is there of such detailed knowledge? With but a
single fragment of Myself, I pervade and support the entire universe.

Arjuna: O Master of Mystic Power, I wish to see how You pervade this universe. If You think
that I am worthy, please reveal to Me Your universal form.

Krsna: So be it, son of Kunti. Whatever there may be can be seen in this form. But you cannot see
it with your present eyes, therefore I give you divine eyes.
(If possible moving music should be played along with colored lights, slides and special
effects.) Behold My mystic opulence, myriad forms, multicolored as the sea.

Arjuna: O Lord of the Universe, I see in Your body all the demigods and all species of life. I see many, many forms - bellies, mouths, eyes- expanded without limit. You have numberless arms and the sun and moon are among

Your great unlimited eyes. O all-pervading Vishnu, I can no longer maintain my equilibrium to see Your blazing, death-like faces. I see Duryodhana, the sons of Dhrtarastra, Bhisma, Drona and all our soldiers rushing into Your flaming mouths, their heads smashed by Your fearful teeth. O Lord of Lords, so fierce of form, tell me Who You are. What is Your mission?

Krsna: Time I am, destroyer of the worlds. I have come to engage all beings. Except for you and your brothers, all soldiers on both sides will be slain. Therefore, get up and fight. You will conquer your enemies and enjoy a flourishing kingdom. They are already put to death by my arrangement. You are only an instrument in the fight.

Arjuna: O Lord, I have many times, in madness or in love, dishonored You while we were relaxing, eating or lying on the same bed together. Please forgive all my offenses. Bestow Your grace upon me and reveal to me again Your original form.

Krsna: Your mind is disturbed to see this horrible feature of mine. Now, let it be finished. My
devotee, with a peaceful mind, see the form you most desire.

Arjuna: O Krsna, I am relieved to see this form so serene and beautiful and I am now restored to my original nature.

Krsna: If someone offers Me a leaf, a flower, fruit or water, I will accept it. Is that so
difficult, Arjuna?

Arjuna: No, it is not.

Krsna: Always think of Me, become My devotee, worship Me, offer homage unto Me. In this
way you will come to Me without fail. I promise you this because you are My very dear friend.
Abandon all varieties of religion and just surrender to Me. I shall deliver you from all sinful
reaction. Do not fear. O son of Kunti, have you heard this attentively and are your illusions and
ignorance now dispelled?

Arjuna: My dear Krsna, Infallible One, my illusion is now gone. I have regained my memory by
Your mercy. I am now firm and free from doubt and I will act according to Your
instructions.

Krsna: Then come, take up your bow. The Kurus await your arrows.